

CHAPTER 2

Examining Outdoor Recreation Activities

The core of every nationwide recreation survey thus far is the part dealing with the individual outdoor recreation activities. This chapter will examine the 36 activities listed on the 1982-83 NRS (plus a few others) on the basis of dimensions or "yardsticks" derived from the survey data.

Table 2 presents the current (1982-83) status of the 36 activities with regard to three national summary statistics: the 12-month participation rate, selection by respondents as "particularly enjoyed," and the activity's implicit number of participants among the United States non-institutionalized population 12 years old or older. Table 3 compares, where possible, the current participation rates with those derived from the 1960 and 1965 National Recreation Surveys. The remaining tables in this chapter present a more detailed picture of the current activity data as well as constraints on participation and reasons for liking activities. Finally, there will be a brief narrative treatment of each activity's characteristics as inferred from this and other surveys.

With respect to 11 of the listed activities, the Forest Service, a major NRS cooperator, sponsored the collection of detailed trip information—principally travel, cost, and type of environment in which the activity took place. These trip aspects will be treated in chapter 3.

ACTIVITY LIST

Every recreation survey is limited, by factors of cost, respondent attention span, etc., in the number of activities it can ask about. The 36 outdoor pursuits on the 1982-83 NRS questionnaire were chosen in a lengthy design process in which more than twice that number were considered at one stage or another. The principal criteria by which the number was reduced to fit the survey's resources were:

- Comparability to the activity lists of the

1960 and 1965 National Recreation Surveys, and

- The information needs of the survey's sponsoring agencies.

In addition to the 36 listed pursuits, certain others will be examined in this report. Some of these are combinations of the listed activities. Others are unlisted activities cited in response to open-ended questions.

Combined Activities

Like most phenomena, outdoor recreation can be subdivided into a few large categories or many smaller ones. In four cases—boating, swimming, camping, and skiing, both approaches were used. Participation in boating, for instance, was recorded if the respondent claimed to have gone canoeing or kayaking, or sailing, or motor-boating, or waterskiing, or engaged in any other boating or watercraft sport. Swimming was counted if the respondent chose "swimming in an outdoor pool" or "any other outdoor swimming" (or both, of course) from the list. Camping was similarly synthesized from the four camping categories (including backpacking) listed on the questionnaire. Finally, either "downhill skiing" or "cross country skiing or ski touring" was counted as "snow skiing."

Unlisted Activities From Open-Ended Questions

Respondents were given four opportunities to cite unlisted activities. The results of two of these open-ended questions will be found in table A-1 in appendix A. The first such question, in which the respondents were asked to cite up to three outdoor activities they particularly enjoyed, was asked before the activity list was introduced. The people in the survey cited a great many such activities, some of which—notably

softball—exceeded most of the listed activities on this popularity yardstick.

The second opportunity closely followed the introduction of the list. After the respondents were asked which of the listed activities they had engaged in once or more in the prior 12 months, they were asked: "During the past 12 months, did you take part in any other outdoor recreation activity?" A maximum of four such activities was recorded, but relatively few respondents cited even one. Most appeared to think that the lengthy list exhausted the survey's area of interest. Therefore the participation rates for the unlisted activities (table A-1 in appendix A) are definitely not comparable with those of the listed pursuits.

YARDSTICKS

In addition to the trip information to be addressed in the next chapter, nine dimensions or yardsticks will be used to describe the status of the listed activities and illustrate trends. Not all of the yardsticks are available for all the activities, as will be seen.

Population Participation Rate

For each listed pursuit (as noted earlier) the respondents were asked to indicate whether they engaged in the activity during the 12 months prior to the interview. The percentage answering yes is the population participation rate for that activity. These percentages are listed for the whole national sample of respondents in table 2 and for each demographic segment in table 4. For those activities similar enough to be compared with the 1960 and 1965 NRS, the comparison of participation rates for each of those years is made in table 3. These are single-season rates (summer in most cases) since 12-month rates could not be derived from the earlier data.

Table 2. Status of Activities: Participation Rates, Choice as Favorites, and Number of Participants

Activity	Total who said they participated in prior year ¹ (percent)	Participants who said they enjoyed activity ² (percent)	Implicit number of participants 12 yrs. or older (millions)
Bicycling	32	30	61
Horseback riding	9	40	17
Golfing	13	46	24
Tennis outdoors	17	45	32
Outdoor team sports	24	72	45
Other outdoor games or sports	13	(³)	24
Boating	28	16	53
Canoeing or kayaking	8	16	15
Sailing	6	19	11
Motorboating	19	(³)	35
Other boating or watercraft sport	6	(³)	11
Waterskiing	9	32	17
Swimming outdoors	53	18	99
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43	(³)	80
Other outdoor swimming	32	(³)	59
Fishing	34	58	64
Hunting	12	75	22
Camping	24	51	46
Backpacking	5	15	9
Camping in developed campgrounds	17	(³)	33
Camping in primitive campgrounds	10	(³)	18
Other camping	4	(³)	8
Day hiking	14	37	26
Walking for pleasure	53	17	100
Running or jogging	26	19	49
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	7	22
Picnicking	48	8	90
Driving for pleasure	48	*1	90
Sightseeing	46	*2	86
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	9	20
Ice skating	6	10	12
Snow skiing	9	49	16
Downhill skiing	6	(³)	12
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	(³)	6
Snowmobiling	3	12	6
Sledding	10	1	8
Other outdoor winter activities	4	(³)	20
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks	50	*1	95
Attending outdoor sports events	40	*2	75
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances	25	*1	48
Other activities (not on list)	4	—	—
No participation	⁵ 11	—	⁵ 21

— Not ascertained for certain activities.

¹Percentage of the total sample of respondents who said they participated in the activity once or more during the prior 12 months. This is the annual participation rate.

²Respondents were asked to name up to three activities that they “particularly enjoyed doing.”

³Eleven activities—largely aggregates or subsets for analytical purposes—were not selected as “particularly enjoyed.” Respondents were asked to name their favorites before the activity list was introduced.

*May not have been perceived as outdoor recreation activities by some respondents.

⁵Non-participants.

Table 3. Activity Participation Trends, 1960 to 1982

(Percentage of respondents participating)

Activity	Summer 1960	Summer 1965	Summer 1982
Bicycling	9	16	28
Horseback riding	6	8	7
Fishing	29	30	30
Canoeing or kayaking	2	3	8
Sailing	2	3	4
Swimming	45	48	51
Camping	8	10	19
Hunting ¹	13	13	10
Skiing ²	2	4	9

¹Hunting during fall season.²Skiing during winter.

NOTE: Percentage of respondents who said they participated once or more in selected activities during the 3 months before the interview, June, July, and August 1960, 1965, and 1982.

Favorite Activities

Choice of an activity as "particularly enjoyed" (maximum of three per respondent) or "most enjoyed" (limited to one activity) is an indicator of depth of involvement with, or commitment to, the activity. The percentage of participants who selected each of the 36 listed activities as particularly enjoyed will be found in the second column of table 2. For 29 activities, table 5 presents the percentages of all respondents, and of participants, who said they "particularly enjoyed" or "most enjoyed" the activity. The respondents named their favorites before seeing the NRS list of 36 activities. They could choose any activity they did outdoors, and they selected many that were not listed on the questionnaire (notably softball—see table A-1). These unlisted activities were classified into numerous categories during the survey coding process. The percentages of the respondents who chose each of these as particularly enjoyed will be found in table A-1 in appendix A.

Besides choosing many unlisted activities, the respondents also failed to choose seven of the listed ones. This was no surprise, since some of the activities on the list were artificial constructs foreign to the thought processes of the recreating public. Camping interests, for instance, should not be dismayed that nobody expressed spontaneous enthusiasm for going "other camping." Also, many respondents may not have perceived certain pursuits as "outdoor recreation" before seeing the list. This may account, in part, for the infrequent choice of such activities as pleasure driving and sightseeing.

Implicit Number of Participants

For each of the 36 activities in table 2, the final figure is the implicit number of par-

ticipants in the United States population (in millions). These estimates are of interest to many data users, but they are hazardous numbers and should be used with the greatest care. Their derivation is deceptively simple: basically they are what is obtained if the population participation rate is multiplied by 188,092,000—the Census Bureau's estimate of the number of noninstitutionalized persons 12 years old or older in the United States population at the time of the survey.

These population totals tend to create an appearance of greater accuracy than has actually been achieved.¹ Users of these figures should bear in mind that—

1. In addition to sampling error, recall error, nonresponse error, etc., these figures are now subject to the additional sources of error affecting the intercensal estimates of the number of persons in various segments of the United States population.
2. Even the target or "true" population totals are not the total numbers of fishermen, etc., in the United States, but rather the numbers 12 years old or over. The behavior of the under-12 years old group affects the meaning of the different activity totals in very different ways. The "implicit total" of persons who went swimming is a much more conservative indicator of the "real" total of United States residents who go swimming than is the corresponding "implicit total" for golfing.

¹Since percentages are inherently abstractions from reality, it may be easier to keep in mind what they imply and—more importantly—do not imply.

Demographic Profiles of Participants

The population participation rates in table 4 are most useful as a source of activity profiles of the various segments of the United States population. They address the question, "What are American women, young people, rural people, etc. doing nowadays in the outdoors?" Using the same data—the respondents' answer that they had gone bicycling, etc., during the prior 12 months—it is also possible to derive a demographic profile of a specific activity. This information, presented in table 6, addresses the question, "What kinds of people are bicycling nowadays?" Such a profile is derived by first separating out the people who say they did the activity (the participants) and then determining what percentage were women, young people, rural people, etc. This was done for the 24 listed activities for which at least 550 participants were identified among the 5,757 respondents in the survey sample.

Annual Volume of Activity Per Participant

As noted in chapter 1, persons who identified themselves as participants in 22 of the 36 listed activities were asked to estimate the number of different days on which they did the activity during the 3-month and 12-month periods preceding the month of the interview.² Table 7 lists the percentages of the participants in each activity (say bicyclists) who gave various estimates of the number of different days on which they did the activity during the prior 12 months. Note that the percentage base changes from the total sample of 5,757 respondents in the first column to participants in the activity (however many there happened to be) in the remaining columns.

Convenient activities—those which can be done close to home with little preparation or costly equipment—tend to have the highest estimates of activity-days per participant. Birdwatching (etc.), team sports, and bicycling, in which more than a third of the participants claimed they logged in excess of 25 days per year, stand out in this regard.

Monthly Volume of Activity, by Season

In tables 8 and 9, the participants' (say bicyclists') estimate of the number of different days they did the activity during the

²Due to scheduling difficulties, it was necessary to postpone the post-fall interviews from December 1982 to January 1983. Therefore, the fall season was, in fact, 4 months long (September through December, 1982); and the spring season was 2 months (April and May, 1983). To compensate for these discrepancies, the seasonal estimates of activity-days were placed on a per month basis. (See tables 8 and 9.)

Table 4. Activity Participation, by Demographic Categories

(Percentage participating)

Activity	Total sample	Sex		Age				Education ¹		
		Male	Female	12 to 24	25 to 39	40 to 59	60 or more	Less than high school	High school but less than 4 years of college	4 or more years of college
Percentage of total sample included in each category . . .	100	48	52	27	29	25	19	26	55	19
Bicycling	32	33	32	55	37	22	7	11	28	37
Horseback riding	9	8	10	18	10	5	1	2	8	9
Golfing	13	20	7	16	13	13	7	4	12	24
Tennis outdoors	17	18	16	32	20	10	1	2	13	31
Outdoor team sports	24	30	18	50	26	11	2	7	18	23
Other outdoor games or sports	13	15	10	24	13	8	2	3	9	15
Boating	28	32	24	38	35	25	9	11	28	41
Canoeing or kayaking	8	10	7	14	9	6	1	1	7	13
Sailing	6	7	5	9	7	5	2	1	4	14
Motorboating	19	22	16	25	23	17	7	8	19	25
Other boating or watercraft sport	6	7	5	8	7	4	2	2	5	7
Waterskiing	9	11	7	17	12	4	(x)	2	8	12
Swimming outdoors	53	55	51	78	63	41	16	19	51	65
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43	43	42	67	49	33	11	13	40	53
Other outdoor swimming	32	34	30	49	40	21	7	10	30	40
Fishing	34	47	23	43	40	31	17	26	34	30
Hunting	12	22	3	15	13	13	5	10	12	7
Camping	24	27	22	36	30	19	6	10	25	27
Backpacking	5	6	3	9	5	2	(x)	(x)	4	7
Camping in developed campgrounds	17	18	16	24	22	15	5	7	19	19
Camping in primitive campgrounds	10	11	8	17	11	6	2	3	9	11
Other camping	4	5	3	6	5	4	1	1	5	4
Day hiking	14	15	13	19	17	12	5	3	13	25
Walking for pleasure	53	45	61	57	58	53	42	35	56	67
Running or jogging	26	30	23	51	31	13	2	6	20	34
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	11	12	10	12	12	13	6	13	17
Picnics	48	45	51	52	59	46	29	29	51	61
Driving for pleasure	48	47	49	48	59	46	35	31	54	59
Sightseeing	46	45	46	46	54	47	31	27	50	63
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	14	8	20	11	6	2	3	10	10
Ice skating	6	6	6	15	6	3	(x)	1	4	8
Snow skiing	9	10	7	15	11	5	(x)	1	6	18
Downhill skiing	6	8	5	12	8	3	1	(x)	5	12
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	4	3	5	4	3	(x)	(x)	2	8
Snowmobiling	3	4	2	6	3	2	(x)	1	3	2
Sledding	10	12	9	22	11	5	(x)	1	7	11
Other outdoor winter activities	4	6	3	9	4	2	(x)	1	3	4
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks	50	50	51	65	62	41	26	26	51	60
Attending outdoor sports events	40	44	36	55	44	36	16	15	39	50
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances	25	25	26	34	29	22	12	10	24	40
Other activities (not on list)	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	2	4	6
No participation	11	9	14	3	5	13	30	29	9	5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Activity Participation, by Demographic Categories – Continued

(Percentage participating)

Activity	Total sample	Race		Annual family income (dollars)					Number of persons in household				
		White	Black	Under 5,000	5,000 to 14,999	15,000 to 24,999	25,000 to 49,999	50,000 and over	1	2	3	4	5 or more
Percentage of total sample included in each category . .	100	89	11	10	30	27	28	5	11	29	20	20	19
Bicycling	32	33	29	23	24	35	41	42	19	24	35	44	39
Horseback riding	9	10	4	7	6	9	11	15	6	6	9	14	11
Golfing	13	14	3	6	6	13	20	27	9	13	13	17	11
Tennis outdoors	17	17	13	12	11	18	22	37	12	14	18	23	18
Outdoor team sports	24	23	27	22	19	25	29	28	14	15	26	31	34
Other outdoor games or sports	13	13	7	11	9	13	16	15	7	9	13	18	16
Boating	28	31	6	16	20	27	39	43	19	26	31	34	28
Canoeing or kayaking	8	9	1	6	5	8	12	10	5	7	8	11	10
Sailing	6	7	1	4	3	5	9	14	6	7	6	6	6
Motorboating	19	21	3	10	13	18	27	32	12	17	20	24	19
Other boating or watercraft sport	6	6	1	3	4	5	7	13	4	5	7	7	5
Waterskiing	9	11	(x)	5	6	10	13	14	5	7	11	12	9
Swimming outdoors	53	55	32	34	39	56	67	71	31	42	59	67	60
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43	45	27	26	29	45	57	62	24	33	47	55	50
Other outdoor swimming	32	34	11	23	23	34	40	43	19	24	36	40	37
Fishing	34	35	27	24	30	38	38	35	19	30	36	42	38
Hunting	12	12	7	8	12	14	14	8	5	10	13	13	15
Camping	24	✓ 27	6	15	19	29	31	25	14	21	27	30	28
Backpacking	5	5	1	3	3	5	7	5	4	4	5	6	5
Camping in developed campgrounds	17	19	4	8	13	20	25	17	8	15	20	20	20
Camping in primitive campgrounds	10	✓ 11	2	7	7	12	13	9	6	8	10	13	10
Other camping	4	5	2	3	4	5	6	2	2	4	5	5	4
Day hiking	14	15	3	10	10	13	18	25	10	14	14	18	13
Walking for pleasure	53	54	49	45	46	54	61	62	47	52	57	56	53
Running or jogging	26	26	30	21	20	27	33	37	17	18	27	36	34
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	13	5	10	10	12	14	19	12	15	10	12	8
Picnicking	48	49	42	36	41	53	56	58	34	41	55	57	52
Driving for pleasure	48	50	35	29	43	53	55	60	37	48	55	52	43
Sightseeing	46	47	36	27	38	48	57	67	35	46	51	52	40
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	12	3	9	8	10	15	13	6	8	13	14	13
Ice skating	6	7	1	5	3	7	10	11	3	3	6	10	11
Snow skiing	9	10	1	5	5	7	13	21	7	9	8	12	7
Downhill skiing	6	7	(x)	4	4	5	9	18	6	7	6	9	5
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	4	(x)	2	2	3	5	8	2	3	3	5	3
Snowmobiling	3	3	(x)	2	2	4	4	4	1	3	4	4	4
Sledding	10	12	2	9	6	12	13	15	3	5	10	18	15
Other outdoor winter activities	4	5	1	4	3	4	6	3	3	2	5	6	5
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks	50	51	40	32	40	55	62	62	33	42	54	62	57
Attending outdoor sports events	40	41	33	24	30	43	51	61	23	33	43	49	47
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances	25	26	21	17	21	24	32	38	23	24	28	27	24
Other activities (not on list)	4	4	1	4	3	4	4	9	4	5	4	4	4
No participation	11	10	18	28	18	7	4	3	25	15	7	6	7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Activity Participation, by Demographic Categories – Continued

(Percentage participating)

Activity	Total sample	Marital status			Household cars owned					Region			
		Married	Widowed, divorced, separated	Never married	None	1	2	3	4 or more	North-east	North Central	South	West
Percentage of total sample included in each category . . .	100	60	17	23	9	27	35	16	13	22	25	34	20
Bicycling	32	27	18	44	21	27	35	39	37	34	38	27	31
Horseback riding	9	7	4	14	4	6	9	12	16	7	10	8	13
Golfing	13	14	6	13	3	10	15	18	14	14	17	9	14
Tennis outdoors	17	13	8	30	10	14	18	21	20	16	17	16	19
Outdoor team sports	24	15	12	40	17	19	24	27	34	22	26	24	23
Other outdoor games or sports	13	9	6	18	7	11	13	16	15	12	16	10	15
Boating	28	28	17	31	11	21	31	34	40	28	34	24	27
Canoeing or kayaking	8	7	3	11	3	7	9	10	11	12	11	5	6
Sailing	6	5	4	10	3	5	7	7	7	8	6	4	7
Motorboating	19	19	12	19	5	12	22	22	30	15	24	18	18
Other boating or watercraft sport	6	5	4	7	2	5	6	6	10	5	6	5	7
Waterskiing	9	8	5	14	2	5	11	11	15	7	10	10	9
Swimming outdoors	53	48	32	66	27	46	56	61	63	57	52	50	52
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43	38	25	54	21	38	45	50	52	48	40	40	44
Other outdoor swimming	32	28	19	43	14	26	34	38	41	36	33	30	27
Fishing	34	36	22	32	15	28	38	43	40	25	37	39	32
Hunting	12	13	5	12	3	8	12	16	21	9	13	15	9
Camping	24	24	14	27	8	17	27	30	38	19	24	20	33
Backpacking	5	3	2	8	3	3	5	6	6	5	3	3	9
Camping in developed campgrounds	17	18	9	18	6	12	20	20	27	13	19	14	25
Camping in primitive campgrounds	10	8	5	13	3	7	10	13	15	7	10	7	16
Other camping	4	4	3	5	1	3	4	7	8	4	3	4	7
Day hiking	14	13	7	19	6	11	16	16	18	13	15	9	23
Walking for pleasure	53	54	48	56	45	51	57	55	53	54	59	49	52
Running or jogging	26	18	14	45	19	22	28	28	34	25	24	26	31
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	13	10	9	6	12	12	12	13	12	15	8	12
Picnicking	48	51	38	47	30	45	53	53	50	45	56	40	55
Driving for pleasure	48	53	36	52	19	45	53	55	54	45	54	43	53
Sightseeing	46	49	34	48	22	41	52	52	49	44	50	41	49
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	8	5	18	2	6	10	15	24	9	12	9	14
Ice skating	6	4	2	10	2	6	6	9	9	11	8	3	5
Snow skiing	9	7	4	14	2	7	9	10	15	11	9	3	15
Downhill skiing	6	4	3	12	2	5	6	8	11	9	5	3	12
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	3	1	4	1	3	3	5	5	4	5	x	5
Snowmobiling	3	3	2	4	1	2	3	4	7	5	6	x	2
Sledding	10	7	4	14	3	8	11	15	13	15	13	6	9
Other outdoor winter activities	4	3	2	7	1	4	5	5	6	6	5	2	4
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks	50	50	35	54	31	45	53	58	57	48	57	44	55
Attending outdoor sports events	40	37	23	50	23	31	43	49	49	35	44	37	42
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances	25	23	20	35	18	23	27	29	27	28	26	20	31
Other activities (not on list)	4	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	5	6	4	3	5
No participation	11	11	23	6	29	16	8	6	6	13	10	13	9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Activity Participation, by Demographic Categories – Continued

(Percentage participating)

Activity	Employment status									Size of locality of residence (population)				
	Total sample	At work	Not at work	Unemployed	Keeping house	Going to school	Unable to work	Retired	Other	Under 5,000	5,000-24,000	25,000-99,999	100,000-999,999	1,000,000 or more
Percentage of total sample included in each category	100	55	5	4	20	3	2	7	5	14	24	26	25	11
Bicycling	32	33	28	41	18	55	2	9	33	32	34	33	30	26
Horseback riding	9	10	8	10	5	13	2	1	9	8	8	10	8	6
Golfing	13	16	15	12	4	16	2	9	12	13	18	15	12	6
Tennis outdoors	17	19	18	25	6	36	0	1	18	15	19	20	18	14
Outdoor team sports	24	25	18	34	7	39	4	1	29	24	24	26	22	15
Other outdoor games or sports	13	13	11	18	6	22	3	2	10	12	14	16	11	8
Boating	28	32	30	31	17	34	12	12	25	30	29	28	23	15
Canoeing or kayaking	8	9	8	9	3	10	1	2	10	10	9	8	6	5
Sailing	6	7	6	7	3	14	0	2	5	5	5	7	7	5
Motorboating	19	22	21	22	11	18	11	9	15	22	21	18	14	7
Other boating or watercraft sport	6	6	6	5	4	7	2	1	6	5	5	6	4	4
Waterskiing	9	11	10	15	3	15	0	(x)	7	9	12	9	7	4
Swimming outdoors	53	58	51	61	34	73	9	13	46	50	56	54	48	40
Swimming in an outdoor pool	43	46	42	47	27	61	4	10	38	41	45	45	39	33
Other outdoor swimming	32	36	33	39	19	42	8	4	25	30	36	30	27	20
Fishing	34	37	32	45	21	32	22	24	30	38	34	36	28	14
Hunting	12	15	10	19	3	16	8	7	11	19	9	10	4	3
Camping	24	27	24	26	16	26	6	7	26	22	25	27	22	15
Backpacking	5	5	5	6	1	8	0	1	5	4	5	6	5	3
Camping in developed campgrounds	17	19	17	19	13	19	3	6	16	15	18	19	16	11
Camping in primitive campgrounds	10	11	10	12	5	13	0	2	8	10	10	11	8	6
Other camping	4	5	3	4	3	4	4	1	5	3	4	4	3	1
Day hiking	14	15	17	14	8	19	2	4	15	11	15	13	13	9
Walking for pleasure	53	54	59	58	55	51	30	40	57	56	55	53	53	43
Running or jogging	26	27	24	36	10	54	2	1	35	24	24	30	27	26
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	11	17	9	13	7	13	10	14	15	10	11	10	4
Picnicking	48	51	60	49	44	46	25	25	42	49	49	48	50	35
Driving for pleasure	48	55	49	55	43	46	22	33	47	49	51	52	46	28
Sightseeing	46	51	50	46	40	47	25	28	43	46	47	49	43	28
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	12	13	13	5	23	0	2	11	10	11	14	9	5
Ice skating	6	6	4	9	3	13	0	1	4	8	6	7	5	4
Snow skiing	9	11	9	4	3	11	0	2	8	7	11	10	7	6
Downhill skiing	6	8	6	4	2	10	0	1	5	4	8	7	6	5
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	4	4	1	1	3	0	(x)	4	4	4	4	2	1
Snowmobiling	3	3	5	7	2	2	1	(x)	2	5	3	2	1	1
Sledding	10	10	11	13	5	17	0	(x)	8	11	10	11	7	3
Other outdoor winter activities	4	4	5	5	2	3	0	(x)	4	4	5	5	4	2
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks	50	53	52	52	43	50	20	25	49	48	51	53	49	41
Attending outdoor sports events	40	44	44	42	24	58	14	16	35	37	43	41	40	26
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances	25	29	26	29	18	32	12	12	26	20	26	30	29	22
Other activities (not on list)	4	4	7	3	3	3	3	4	2	4	4	4	4	3
No participation	11	8	6	9	21	6	42	29	14	11	11	9	13	22

x Less than one half of one percent.

¹Education percentages are based on respondents 22 years old or older.

previous season (monthly basis) is averaged and listed. Table 8 presents these volume estimates for the entire United States, and table 9 gives the breakdown by the four census regions for 12 of the 22 activities. Seasonality is a major constraint on the production of outdoor recreation experiences per unit of resource capacity. That seasonality patterns vary by region, as well as among activities, may be seen in table 9.

Constraints and Reasons for Liking, by Activity

In chapter 1, it was noted that respondents who cited an activity as particularly enjoyed were asked to select, from a list, their reasons for liking the activity and, if applicable, the constraints upon their pursuit of it. In this chapter, the percentages citing various constraints and reasons for liking

outdoor recreation (tables 10 and 11) are used to characterize selected outdoor activities. This was only done for those activities (10 in number) for which at least 300 self-identified enthusiasts were available among the NRS respondents.

Short-Term Trend Indicators

The percentages of persons identified as having started or stopped participating in each activity in the prior 2 years, or who indicated that they "expected they might" take up the activity in the next 2 years, were introduced in chapter 1 as yardsticks for characterizing people. In this chapter (table 12) these percentages are used to characterize activities. Since future expectations are speculative by comparison with past behavior, the stopping and starting percentages should not be used to derive an indicator of net change. All three of these short-term trend yardsticks are useful for comparisons among activities. Even here, however, caution is warranted. Many of the activities on the list are typically begun in early childhood. Hence, with a sample restricted to persons 12 years of age or older, the NRS data may not adequately reveal the rate of recruitment of new participants. Similarly, death is an unmeasured cause of participant loss.

ACTIVITIES—STATUS AND TRENDS

The 36 listed activities—plus the four synthetic aggregates (boating, outdoor swimming, camping, and snow skiing)—will be examined in order of their appearance in tables 2 and 4. For the listed pursuits, this is also the order in which they appear on the questionnaire. For the sake of comparability, the order established in the 1960 and 1965 National Recreation Surveys was retained where practicable.

Bicycling

Bicycling has gained dramatically in the past 22 years on every available yardstick, more than tripling its population participation rate (table 3). Especially noteworthy is the increase in adult bicycling, which was practically insignificant in 1960. In the present survey, cycling is part of the free-time repertoire of 37 percent of the young adults (aged 25-39) and 22 percent of the middle-aged (40-59 years). This greatly exceeds the most sanguine predictions of the early 1960's. On the depth yardstick of percentage of participants who cited the activity as particularly enjoyed, bicycling, with 30 percent, topped all the casual activities—those which can be enjoyed on the spur of the moment with little cost or preparation. Unsurprisingly, many (55 percent) of the

Table 5. Favorite Activities

Activity	Total sample		Participants	
	Participated once or more in last year	Particularly enjoyed	Particularly enjoyed	Most enjoyed
Bicycling	32	10	30	7
Horseback riding	9	4	40	16
Golfing	13	6	46	19
Tennis outdoors	17	8	45	12
Outdoor team sports	24	17	72	33
Boating	28	5	16	5
Canoeing or kayaking	8	1	16	3
Sailing	6	1	19	7
Waterskiing	9	3	32	10
Swimming outdoors	53	10	18	6
Fishing	34	20	58	18
Hunting	12	9	75	28
Camping	24	12	51	18
Backpacking	5	1	15	6
Day hiking	14	5	37	9
Walking for pleasure	53	9	17	5
Running or jogging	26	5	19	5
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	1	7	2
Picnics	48	4	8	2
Driving for pleasure ¹	48	1	1	(x)
Sightseeing ¹	46	1	2	(x)
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	1	9	4
Ice skating	6	1	10	3
Snow skiing	9	4	49	17
Snowmobiling	3	(x)	12	3
Sledding	10	(x)	1	(x)
Visiting zoos, fairs, or amusement parks ¹	50	(x)	1	(x)
Attending outdoor sports events ¹	40	1	2	(x)
Attending outdoor concerts, plays, or other outdoor performances ¹	25	(x)	1	(x)

x Less than one half of one percent.

¹May not have been perceived as an "outdoor activity" by all respondents. The respondents were asked to name the activities they "particularly enjoyed doing" and "most enjoyed doing" before they were shown the activity list.

NOTE: Percentage of total sample and of participants who said they "particularly enjoyed" or "most enjoyed" selected activities. Respondents who said they engaged in the activity once or more during the prior 12 months were counted as participants.

Table 6. Participation in Selected Activities, by Demographic Characteristics(Percentage of participants¹)

Characteristic	Respondents who said they participated once or more in previous 12 months						
	Total	Bicycling	Golfing	Tennis, outdoors	Team sports, outdoors	Boating	Pool swimming
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sex							
Male	48	48	73	50	60	56	48
Female	52	52	27	50	40	44	52
Age							
12 to 24	27	46	34	50	56	35	42
25 to 39	29	33	30	35	32	36	34
40 to 59	25	17	25	14	11	22	19
60 or more	19	4	11	1	1	7	5
Education							
Less than high school	26	12	8	4	11	12	9
High school	37	37	29	26	39	38	36
Less than 4 years of college	19	23	24	26	23	24	27
4 or more years of college	19	28	39	44	26	27	29
Race							
White	89	90	98	91	87	98	93
Black	11	10	2	9	13	2	7
Annual family income (dollars)							
Under 5,000	10	7	5	6	9	5	6
5,000 to 14,999	30	22	13	19	24	20	20
15,000 to 24,999	27	29	28	28	28	26	28
25,000 to 49,999	28	35	43	35	33	40	38
50,000 or more	5	7	12	12	6	9	8
Number of persons in household							
1	11	6	7	8	6	7	6
2	29	22	30	23	18	27	23
3	20	21	20	21	21	21	22
4	20	28	27	28	27	26	26
5 or more	19	23	16	21	28	19	23
Marital status							
Married	60	55	67	48	45	63	58
Widowed, divorced, separated	17	10	8	9	10	11	11
Never married	23	35	25	43	45	26	32
Household cars owned							
None	9	6	2	6	6	3	5
1	27	22	20	22	21	17	24
2	35	38	40	37	36	41	37
3	16	20	23	20	18	19	19
4 or more	13	15	15	16	19	21	16
Employment status							
At work	55	62	70	66	68	66	64
Not at work	5	5	6	5	4	5	5
Unemployed	4	6	4	7	7	5	5
Keeping house	20	13	6	8	7	12	14
Going to school	3	6	4	8	6	3	5
Unable to work	2	(x)	(x)	0	(x)	1	(x)
Retired	7	2	5	(x)	(x)	3	2
Other	5	6	5	6	7	4	5
Size of place of residence							
Under 5,000	14	14	14	12	15	18	14
5,000 to 24,999	24	26	32	26	26	30	26
25,000 to 99,999	26	27	29	29	29	27	28
100,000 to 999,999	25	23	21	24	24	20	23
1,000,000 or more	11	9	5	9	7	4	9
Region							
Northeast	22	34	14	16	22	15	48
North Central	25	38	17	17	26	24	40
South	34	27	9	16	24	18	40
West	20	31	14	19	23	18	44

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Participation in Selected Activities, by Demographic Characteristics—Continued(Percentage of participants¹)

Characteristic	Respondents who said they participated once or more in previous 12 months						
	Total	Outdoor swimming	Fishing	Hunting	Camping in developed campgrounds	Day hiking	Walking for pleasure
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sex							
Male	48	51	65	88	51	52	40
Female	52	50	35	12	50	48	60
Age							
12 to 24	27	42	34	33	37	37	29
25 to 39	29	37	34	32	37	36	32
40 to 59	25	1	23	27	21	21	25
60 or more	19	5	10	8	5	7	15
Education							
Less than high school	26	10	22	25	12	7	17
High school	37	37	40	44	40	29	38
Less than 4 years of college	19	26	21	19	26	26	21
4 or more years of college	19	29	18	13	23	38	24
Race							
White	89	96	91	93	98	98	90
Black	11	4	9	7	2	2	11
Annual family income (dollars)							
Under 5,000	10	7	7	6	4	7	8
5,000 to 14,999	30	22	27	28	21	22	26
15,000 to 24,999	27	29	30	32	30	25	27
25,000 to 49,999	28	35	31	31	39	37	32
50,000 or more	5	7	5	3	5	10	6
Number of persons in household							
1	11	7	6	5	5	8	10
2	29	23	26	26	26	29	29
3	20	23	21	22	23	20	21
4	20	25	25	23	24	26	21
5 or more	19	23	22	25	23	18	19
Marital status							
Married	60	56	66	69	65	58	60
Widowed, divorced, separated	17	11	12	7	10	9	15
Never married	23	33	23	25	25	33	24
Household cars owned							
None	9	4	4	3	3	4	8
1	27	22	22	17	18	21	26
2	35	38	38	35	40	40	37
3	16	19	20	22	18	18	17
4 or more	13	17	16	24	21	17	13
Employment status							
At work	55	67	63	69	64	64	55
Not at work	5	5	5	4	5	6	5
Unemployed	4	6	6	7	5	5	5
Keeping house	20	12	13	5	15	12	20
Going to school	3	5	3	5	4	5	3
Unable to work	2	(x)	1	1	(x)	(x)	1
Retired	7	1	5	4	2	2	5
Other	5	4	5	5	5	6	6
Size of place of residence							
Under 5,000	14	15	17	31	13	13	15
5,000 to 24,999	24	29	26	24	27	29	25
25,000 to 99,999	26	27	30	30	30	25	26
100,000 to 999,999	25	22	22	12	24	25	25
1,000,000 or more	11	7	5	3	7	8	9
Region							
Northeast	22	36	25	9	13	13	54
North Central	25	33	37	13	19	15	59
South	34	30	39	15	14	9	49
West	20	27	32	9	25	23	52

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 6. Participation in Selected Activities, by Demographic Characteristics – Continued

(Percentage of respondents)

Characteristic	Respondents who said they participated once or more in previous 12 months								
	Total sample	Jogging	Bird- watching, etc.	Picnicking	Driving for pleasure	Sight seeing	Visiting zoos, etc.	Attend out- door sports	Attend out- door cultural performances
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sex									
Male	48	55	45	44	47	47	47	53	46
Female	52	46	55	56	53	53	53	47	54
Age									
12 to 24	27	52	22	29	27	27	35	37	36
25 to 39	29	35	29	36	36	35	36	33	34
40 to 59	25	12	27	24	24	25	20	22	21
60 or more	19	1	22	12	14	13	10	8	9
Education									
Less than high school	26	8	13	16	16	15	15	11	12
High school	37	32	36	38	38	36	37	36	32
Less than 4 years of college	19	26	24	22	23	23	24	26	24
4 or more years of college	19	34	27	24	23	26	25	27	33
Race									
White	89	87	96	90	92	91	91	91	91
Black	11	13	4	10	8	9	9	9	10
Annual family income (dollars)									
Under 5,000	10	8	8	7	6	6	6	6	7
5,000 to 14,999	30	23	25	25	26	24	24	22	25
15,000 to 24,999	27	27	27	29	29	28	29	28	26
25,000 to 49,999	28	35	32	32	32	34	34	36	35
50,000 or more	5	8	9	6	7	8	7	8	8
Number of persons in household									
1	11	7	11	8	9	9	7	7	10
2	29	20	37	25	29	29	24	24	28
3	20	21	18	23	23	22	21	21	22
4	20	27	21	24	22	23	25	25	22
5 or more	19	25	14	21	18	17	22	23	18
Marital status									
Married	60	47	67	64	64	64	62	59	54
Widowed, divorced separated	17	10	15	14	13	13	12	11	14
Never married	23	44	19	23	24	24	26	30	32
Household cars owned									
None	9	7	5	6	4	4	6	5	7
1	27	22	29	25	25	24	24	21	25
2	35	37	35	38	38	39	37	38	37
3	16	17	17	18	18	18	19	20	18
4 or more	13	17	14	14	15	14	15	16	14
Employment status									
At work	55	64	52	60	60	61	60	64	63
Not at work	5	5	7	6	5	5	5	5	5
Unemployed	4	7	4	4	5	4	5	5	5
Keeping house	20	8	22	18	17	17	17	12	14
Going to school	3	8	2	3	3	3	4	5	4
Unable to work	2	x	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Retired	7	x	6	4	4	4	4	3	3
Other	5	8	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
Size of place of residence									
Under 5,000	14	13	21	15	15	15	14	14	11
5,000-24,999	24	22	24	25	26	26	25	27	24
25,000-99,999	26	29	28	26	29	29	28	27	29
100,000-999,999	25	25	23	26	24	24	24	25	27
1,000,000 or more	11	11	5	8	7	7	9	7	9
Region									
Northeast	22	25	12	45	45	44	48	35	28
North Central	25	24	15	56	54	50	57	44	26
South	34	26	8	40	43	41	44	37	20
West	20	31	12	55	53	49	55	42	31

NOTE: Limited to those activities in which 10 percent or more (550 or more) respondents said they participated once or more in the 12 previous months.

self-identified bicycle enthusiasts cited "to get exercise or keep in shape" as a reason for liking the activity. The appreciative component of the bicycling boom is also substantial. Fifty-nine percent of the respondents who particularly enjoyed bicycling cited the reason "to enjoy nature and the outdoors."

Horseback Riding

More stable in its participation rate since the 1960's, horseback riding is typical of those activities which require substantial investments of time and/or money to participate. It counts only 9 percent of the NRS respondents as participants but, of those who went horseback riding once or more in the prior 12 months, 40 percent cited the activity as particularly enjoyed. That this is a very respectable showing will be seen from

table 5. The demographic patterning of horseback riders is rather typical of outdoor activities and does not support the elite stereotype often associated with the sport. Also, by contrast to most forms of outdoor recreation, more women than men reported riding horseback.

Golfing

Men participate in golf at almost triple the rate of women. It is, however, one of the least age-related activities. Participation, once begun, holds up well through middle age and into the older years. The participation rates corroborate the popular impression of an upscale sport. Those in the least advantaged categories of education, race, and income participate at less than half the general population rate (13 percent) and at

only one-fourth to one-sixth the rate of the most advantaged categories. Self-identified golf enthusiasts (46 percent of participants) have a strong tendency to cite fitness, enjoyment of the outdoors, and escape (to get away from day-to-day living or problems) as reasons why they enjoy their sport.

Tennis Outdoors

Though we have no 1960 data, a comparison of the 1965 and 1982 summer rates indicate that the proportion of Americans who play tennis has about tripled. The sport is somewhat less upscale than golf in its relation to income, and Blacks participate at almost as high a rate as Whites. Those who say they particularly enjoy tennis cite fitness as by far the most frequent motive. The social component of their enthusiasm—being with family and friends, and liking people who play tennis—is also substantial.

Table 7. Annual Volume of Activity Per Participant

(By activity-day categories)

Activity	1 or more days	1 to 2 days	3 to 10 days	11 to 25 days	More than 25 days
Bicycling	100	12	32	19	38
Horseback riding	100	47	27	8	17
Golfing	100	28	34	17	21
Tennis outdoors	100	23	42	19	16
Outdoor team sports	100	13	30	18	38
Boating					
Canoeing or kayaking	100	51	39	8	3
Sailing	100	56	30	6	8
Motorboating	100	33	39	17	12
Swimming outdoors					
Swimming in outdoor pool	100	14	38	19	29
Other outdoor swimming	100	19	42	20	19
Fishing	100	21	43	21	15
Hunting	100	19	42	22	17
Camping					
Backpacking	100	39	47	9	6
Camping in developed campgrounds	100	26	51	16	7
Camping in primitive campgrounds	100	36	47	12	6
Other camping	100	35	44	16	5
Day hiking	100	28	47	14	12
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	100	15	29	14	42
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	100	23	39	21	17
Snow skiing					
Downhill skiing	100	34	44	16	7
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	100	51	35	10	4
Snowmobiling	100	40	36	14	10

NOTE: Percentage of participants (respondents who said they participated in the activity once or more in the prior 12 months) who gave different estimates of the number of different days on which they participated during the 12 months.

Outdoor Team Sports

Participation in outdoor team sports is still mostly a pursuit of young males, though women and mature adults maintain a respectable presence among the players. Team participation is almost totally unrelated to race or income. A slightly higher percentage of Blacks than Whites said they engaged in an outdoor team sport during the 12 months prior to the interview. "Other outdoor games or sports" includes such a diversity of pursuits (from croquet to orienteering, at least) that no demographic analysis will be attempted here.

Boating

The general population participation rate of 28 percent for boating is impressive, given the investments of time and money involved. The demographic patterns of boaters are somewhat upscale, and participation by Blacks is especially low. Sex is not an important factor, and boating participation holds up well through middle age. Virtually these same relationships are characteristic of the four component activities—canoeing or kayaking, sailing, motorboating, and "other boating or watercraft sport"—from which the "boating" data were synthesized. Canoeing or kayaking, however, had the largest growth with a quadrupling of the summer participation rate since 1960 (from 2 to 8 percent).³

Waterskiing

Self-identified waterskiers were counted in both the "boating" and the "swimming"

³In the 1960 survey, the activity was referred to as "canoeing." Theoretically, the absence of kayaking in the earlier version could inflate the appearance of growth. The distortion is probably minimal since kayaking was considered insignificant in the United States at that time.

Table 8. Monthly Volume of Activity, by Season

Activity	Activity days of participation per month ^{1 2}			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Bicycling	4.0	4.7	2.9	2.2
Horseback riding	1.7	2.6	1.6	0.5
Golfing	1.9	2.6	1.2	0.7
Tennis outdoors	1.9	1.9	1.1	1.0
Outdoor team sports	4.2	4.1	2.6	2.5
Canoeing or kayaking	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.1
Sailing	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.2
Motorboating	0.9	1.9	0.5	0.2
Swimming in an outdoor pool	1.9	4.2	0.8	0.3
Other outdoor swimming	1.0	3.0	0.3	0.5
Fishing	1.9	1.8	0.7	0.6
Hunting	0.6	0.5	2.2	1.1
Backpacking	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.2
Camping in developed campgrounds	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.4
Camping in primitive campgrounds	0.6	1.4	0.5	0.3
Other camping	0.5	1.1	0.4	0.3
Day hiking	1.4	1.8	1.2	0.9
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	8.7	6.7	5.9	5.3
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	2.2	2.8	1.4	1.5
Downhill skiing	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.4
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	(x)	0.1	0.2	1.1
Snowmobiling	(x)	0.3	0.1	1.4

x Less than one twentieth of a day.

¹Average number of activity-days per participant per month. An activity-day was counted for each calendar day on which the respondent said he or she did the activity, even for a very short period.

²Not ascertained for certain activities due to limitations on interview length.

figures. This had little effect on those larger aggregates, since most waterskiers identified themselves as both boaters and swimmers in any case. The demographic pattern of waterskiers resembles boaters rather than swimmers, however, and the sport is overwhelmingly a pursuit of youth and young adulthood.

Swimming Outdoors

Outdoor swimming was already extremely popular in the 1960 survey with relatively little room for growth. There was a rise in the summer participation rate from 45 to 51 percent over the 22-year period. In this survey, a somewhat larger proportion of the respondents said they swam in outdoor pools rather than in other environments (lakes, rivers, ocean beaches, etc.). Both forms of the sport have a widespread following among all demographic segments and even hold up fairly well with advancing age. Self-identified swimming enthusiasts (18 percent of participants) tended to cite

fitness (exercise—keeping in shape) and social reasons (being with family and friends, liking people who swim) as reasons for their preference.

Fishing

Even more than swimming, fishing has been stable since 1960, as inferred from the summer participation rates (29 percent in 1960 compared with 30 percent in 1982). More than twice as many men fished as women, but otherwise the sport was well distributed across the various demographic categories. Participation is virtually unrelated to income or education and holds up well with age. Fishing enthusiasts (58 percent of participants) most frequently cite peace and quiet, getting away from day-to-day living, and enjoying nature and the outdoors as reasons. A much smaller number cited the prospect of catching fish as a motive, but this was not offered on the list of reasons and is, therefore, not directly comparable with the others.

Hunting

The demographic pattern of hunters among our survey respondents is unique—totally unlike that of any other activity's participants. The sport is almost entirely male. Of the participants, 88 percent were men and boys. It is also the most predominantly rural pursuit listed in our survey, with non-residents of a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) four times more likely to be hunters than central city people—and twice as likely as suburbanites.⁴

As with fishermen, the proportion of Americans who hunt appears to have been stable since 1960. Apart from the predominance of rural males, hunters are very well distributed across the demographic spectrum. Though only 12 percent of our respondents hunted, the sport tops the list for enthusiasm on the part of those who did. Seventy-five percent of the self-identified hunters said they particularly enjoyed the sport, and 28 percent cited it as their absolute favorite outdoor pursuit. Of the hunting enthusiasts, an impressive 71 percent cited enjoyment of nature and the outdoors as a motive. The social aspects were not frequently chosen by comparison with other outdoor activities. On the contrary, 30 percent cited solitude, rather than companionship, as a reason why they liked to hunt, while 46 percent said they hunted to get away from day-to-day living or problems. A few said they hunted for the meat but, as with fishing, this consumptive motive was not on the list and hence was not given a fair test.

Camping

Respondents who said they went backpacking, or camped in developed or primitive campgrounds, or engaged in any other camping activity during the prior 12 months were counted as camping participants. This is not exactly the same as the camping choice offered in 1960 and 1965, but it should be quite close. It appears (table 3) that camping as a whole has about doubled its population participation rate in the past 22 years. The self-identified campers—24 percent of the survey's respondents—are well (or at least typically) distributed across the various demographic segments of the sample. Camping enjoys a dedicated following, as evidenced by the 51 percent of participants who cited it as particularly enjoyed and the 18 percent who chose it as the one activity they most enjoyed. The reasons given for enjoying camping were predominantly appreciative

⁴Respondents who lived in an SMSA but not in a central city were presumed suburban. See "place of residence," in chapter 1, for a more detailed explanation.

Table 9. Recreation Participation, by Activity and Season

(Selected activities)

Activity and region	Activity days of participation per month				Activity and region	Activity days of participation per month			
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter		Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Bicycling	4.0	4.7	2.9	2.2	Backpacking	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.2
Northeast	3.7	4.7	2.5	2.2	Northeast	1.6	1.2	.2	.2
North Central	4.1	5.2	1.4	1.3	North Central .....	.2	2.8	.2	.0
South	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.3	South	1.1	.5	.4	.2
West	5.0	4.8	3.3	2.4	West .....	.4	1.1	.9	.3
Canoeing or kayaking .....	.0.3	1.0	0.3	0.1	Camping in developed				
Northeast .....	.2	1.0	.4	x	campgrounds	0.6	1.5	0.6	0.4
North Central .....	.2	.9	.1	.1	Northeast .....	.3	2.8	.2	.1
South .....	.4	.5	.2	.2	North Central .....	.6	1.5	.4	.1
West .....	.5	1.5	.2	.2	South .....	.7	.7	.7	.5
Sailing	0.8	1.4	0.4	0.2	West .....	.7	1.7	.9	.8
Northeast .....	.2	3.0	.1	.1	Day hiking	1.4	1.8	1.2	0.9
North Central .....	.4	1.6	.1	.2	Northeast	1.9	.9	.6	1.1
South	2.0	.6	.5	.4	North Central	1.6	2.2	1.6	.8
West	1.6	.8	1.2	.1	South	1.9	2.2	.9	1.0
Swimming in an outdoor pool ...	1.9	4.2	0.8	0.3	West .....	.6	1.8	1.4	.6
Northeast	1.3	3.8	.5	.4	Birdwatching or other nature				
North Central	1.0	3.8	.2	.3	study activities	8.7	6.7	5.9	5.3
South	2.4	3.8	.9	.2	Northeast	11.3	8.5	6.9	4.6
West	2.9	5.4	1.6	.6	North Central	11.1	6.4	5.6	7.0
Fishing	1.9	1.8	0.7	0.6	South	4.1	7.6	10.4	4.9
Northeast	1.4	1.8	.6	.7	West	7.3	4.2	2.1	2.2
North Central	1.9	2.2	.5	.3	Off-road vehicle driving (includes				
South	2.6	1.7	.8	.9	motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	2.2	2.8	1.4	1.5
West .....	.9	1.8	.9	.7	Northeast	2.9	4.6	1.5	2.0
Hunting	0.6	0.5	2.2	1.1	North Central	3.4	1.6	1.0	.7
Northeast .....	.5	.3	2.4	2.0	South	2.6	2.4	.9	2.2
North Central .....	.6	.3	3.4	.3	West .....	.5	3.0	2.4	1.6
South .....	.6	.4	1.5	1.4	Downhill skiing	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.4
West .....	.3	1.1	1.8	1.2	Northeast .....	.6	.2	.3	1.9
					North Central	(x)	(x)	(x)	1.6
					South .....	.1	.0	.2	.9
					West .....	.1	.2	.4	.9

x Less than one half of one percent.

¹Average number of activity-days per participant per month. An activity-day was counted for each calendar day on which the respondents said they did the activity, even for a very short period.

(enjoying nature and the outdoors, peace and quiet); change of pace (getting away from day-to-day living, doing something new or different); and social (being with family and friends, liking people who camp).

The same widespread participation pattern was characteristic of the component activities "camping in a developed campground," "camping in a primitive campground," and "other camping." Respondents were not prompted as to the difference between developed and primitive campgrounds. Most applied their own intuitive criteria, but those few who asked were told that primitive campgrounds had no improved roads, water taps, utility hookups, flush toilets, showers, stores, or laundry facilities. Campgrounds with one or more of these features were to

be considered "developed."

Backpacking

This is the first nationwide recreation survey to include backpacking—a combination of primitive camping with hiking. Backpacking, though it attracted only 5 percent of our respondents as participants, has become a major concern of land managing agencies. It is the principal means of access to many remote wilderness areas—environments which agencies are just now learning how to manage. Backpacking attracts few Blacks and drops off sharply with age. It attracts disproportionate numbers of the well educated. Otherwise, this pursuit is widely distributed across the income spectrum and other demographic categories.

Day Hiking

Hiking is another resource-oriented pursuit which shows substantial growth since 1960—to a current participation rate of 14 percent. With the exception of Blacks, only 3 percent of whom said they hiked, participation was very widely distributed across the demographic spectra of our respondent sample. Thirty-seven percent of the participants cited hiking as particularly enjoyed. The reasons given were predominantly in the appreciative and escape categories—enjoyment of nature and the outdoors (84 percent!), solitude, peace and quiet, and getting away from day-to-day living or problems. Fitness (to get exercise or keep in shape) was cited as a motive by 42 percent of the self-identified hiking enthusiasts.

Table 10. Percentage Who Gave Selected Reasons for not Engaging in Favorite Activities

Reason	Percentage of those who cited any activity as particularly enjoyed ¹	Percentage of those who particularly enjoyed activity ²									
		Bicycling	Golf	Tennis	Swimming	Fishing	Hunting	Hiking	Walking	Camping	Softball
Not enough time	56	40	56	53	37	53	51	53	41	63	34
Not enough money	20	3	16	6	9	16	20	9	1	31	3
No place to do activity	19	7	2	10	16	9	13	12	4	15	8
No one to do activity with	17	9	10	22	8	8	6	9	8	15	16
Inadequate transportation or too far to travel	14	3	4	5	9	8	7	11	4	13	5
Crowded activity areas	13	2	10	13	12	6	5	4	1	13	4
Personal health reasons	8	2	6	4	4	5	5	5	8	4	7
Inadequate activity information	5	1	0	1	3	3	4	5	1	6	2
Poorly maintained activity areas	5	2	1	4	4	2	1	2	1	1	2
Personal safety problems in activity areas	5	7	(x)	1	2	2	3	4	7	2	(x)
Pollution problems in activity areas	4	1	-	1	3	4	1	4	1	1	-
Other reasons (not on list)	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

-Not ascertained for certain activities.

¹Percentages are based on the total (76 percent of all respondents) who cited one or more activities they "particularly enjoyed."

²These are the ten activities cited as "particularly enjoyed" by the largest numbers of respondents.

Walking for Pleasure

Roughly equivalent to "taking walks," walking for pleasure was defined, by virtue of being asked after hiking, as the casual residue of recreational walking. The few respondents who asked about the difference were told that hiking was "walking of a substantial nature requiring some degree of preparation, special clothing, supplies, and/or equipment," and that all other recreational walking (except backpacking) was to be counted as "walking for pleasure." Pleasure walking, with 53 percent of the sample participating, was tied with swimming as the most widespread activity in the 1982-83 NRS. The popularity of walking extends across all categories of the respondent sample, with no less than 35 percent participating even in the most disadvantaged groupings. With 42 percent, participation in pleasure walking by the older respondents (aged 60 or more) greatly exceeded their involvement with any other activity in the survey. Seventeen percent of the walkers said they particularly enjoyed the activity, mostly citing fitness and enjoyment of the outdoors as reasons.

Running or Jogging

As evidenced by this and other surveys, the penetration of running and jogging into the recreational repertoire of the American

people can only be described as extraordinary. In 1960, running was limited to a relatively few young athletes. It was considered so insignificant as not to warrant inclusion in the 1960 National Recreational Survey (which included rock climbing)! In this survey, more than one in four respondents (26 percent) claimed to have run or jogged in the prior 12 months, and 19 percent of the runners cited the activity as particularly enjoyed. The proportion of runners among our respondents increases strongly with education and declines sharply with age. (Still, 13 percent of the age 40 to 59 category is respectable for an activity which is regarded as one of the most stressful sports in its demands on the cardiovascular system.) Otherwise, participation in running was well distributed across the demographic categories of respondents, with Blacks participating at a higher rate than Whites.

Birdwatching or Other Nature Study Activities

Nature study, judged by its rather even distribution across the demographic categories of respondents and the seasons of the year, is one of the most available of outdoor activities. The number of days per year on which participants engaged in this pursuit (table 9) is substantial. Nature study is the only activity on our list which actually

increases in participation—if gradually—across the entire age spectrum. Given this apparent availability, the population participation rate of 12 percent is unimpressive, as is the 7 percent of participants who cited this activity as particularly enjoyed. The low participation by young people would appear to bode ill for the future of this pursuit. Comparison with other surveys indicates, however, that this is too bleak a picture. "Birdwatching or other nature study activities" was included in the NRS to capture, as far as possible in a single label, the wide spectrum of pursuits involving the "appreciative" or "nonconsumptive" enjoyment of nature. A comparison with the 1980 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation suggests that our label captured only a fraction of this type of behavior.⁵

That survey, with a similar but larger sample of a reasonably comparable target population (U.S. residents 16 years old or older), used a much more detailed series of questions to capture a definitionally narrower spectrum of pursuits than our "birdwatching or other nature study activities." The two activity-aggregates of greatest interest in

⁵U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1982. 1980 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. Table 49 and tables 69-70.

Table 11. Percentage of Respondents Who Gave Selected Reasons for Enjoying Favorite Activities

Reason	Percentage of those who cited any activity as particularly enjoyed	Percentage of those who particularly enjoyed activity ²									
		Bicycling	Golf	Tennis	Swim- ming	Fishing	Hunting	Hiking	Walking	Camping	Softball
Enjoy nature and outdoors	68	59	51	29	37	68	71	84	61	81	27
Get exercise or keep in shape . . .	66	55	55	57	52	19	21	42	55	29	55
Get away from day-to-day living or problems	56	33	53	31	34	54	46	54	37	66	34
Chance to be with family and friends	53	32	44	39	39	36	27	35	20	58	57
It's quiet and peaceful where I go	47	27	32	9	16	58	48	65	38	59	4
Like people who do activity	34	12	41	25	20	21	20	20	10	29	44
Have special equipment for it. Like using equipment	27	23	34	20	7	27	26	9	3	26	13
Not many people around	25	15	9	6	9	28	30	38	17	32	1
To do something new or different	21	13	10	10	10	11	9	16	7	24	8
Other reasons (not on list)	10	4	5	6	5	4	5	5	4	1	7

¹Percentages are based on the total (76 percent of all respondents) who cited one or more activities they "particularly enjoyed."

²These are the 10 activities cited as "particularly enjoyed" by the largest numbers of respondents.

checking our "birdwatching, etc." data are "primary nonresidential, nonconsumptive, wildlife-related activities," and "primary residential, nonconsumptive, wildlife-related activities." The difference between the two is that residential activities occur within 1 mile of home, and nonresidential activities occur everywhere else. The "primary" specification requires that the recreational occasion have the primary purpose of observing, feeding, photographing, or otherwise enjoying fish or wildlife.

Our "birdwatching, etc." definition is broader on two counts—secondary occasions are not, as such, excluded; and natural phenomena other than wildlife are included, such as plants, rocks, clouds, or stars. Nevertheless, the 1980 Fishing, Hunting, etc. Survey, obtained population participation rates of 49 percent for primary nonconsumptive wildlife-related activities as a whole—whether residential or nonresidential. The rate for the residential segment was 47 percent, and that for the nonresidential was 17 percent. Even the low participation of youth may be less of a cause for concern. This more detailed survey indicates that the proportion of the sample which participates in the nonconsumptive enjoyment of wildlife peaks in young adulthood (ages 25 to 34) with a slow decline thereafter.⁶

⁶The behavior surveyed was that during calendar year 1980 in the Fishing, Hunting, etc. Survey, in which the interviews took place early in 1981. In the Nationwide Recreation Survey, the 12-month recall periods ranged from the fall of 1981 through the spring of 1983. These should be very comparable time periods, since there is little evidence of fadingness or instability in these nature observation activities.

Picnics

Many people (48 percent of our sample) of all ages and conditions go on picnics, but few cite picnicking as a favorite activity. With a 51-percent participation rate, slightly more women said they picnicked than men (with 45 percent).

Driving for Pleasure

With summer participation rates of 53 and 52 percent, picnicking and driving for pleasure topped the list of activities in the 1960 National Recreation Survey. In 1965 they maintained their rank and increased their summer participation rates to 57 percent for picnicking and 55 percent for pleasure driving. They have not kept pace in the interim. Due to Census restrictions on interview length, the summer participation rates were not obtained for these activities in the current survey. However, the 12-month rate for both activities was 48 percent, and the summer rates could only be the same or (likely) lower. The availability of pleasure driving across all population segments continues to be impressive. With 35 percent participating, pleasure driving was the second most widespread activity among the age 60 and older group in our survey. Only walking for pleasure, with 42 percent, was cited by a larger number of senior citizens.

Sightseeing

Sightseeing has also fallen off a bit since the 1960s judged by the criteria stated above (1982-83 twelve-month participation rate compared with the 1960 and 1965 summer rates). Nevertheless, with 46 per-

cent of the sample saying they went sightseeing in the prior 12 months, it is clear that this activity is still very much a part of the nation's leisure patterns. There is a marked tendency of sightseeing participation to increase with more years of schooling. Otherwise, the activity is done widely by all population groups represented in the NRS sample.

Off-Road Vehicle Driving (Includes Motorcycles but not Snowmobiles)

In addition to motorcycling, this aggregate of off-road motorized travel includes driving four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, and beach buggies. It was not much of a factor in the 1960s and was not included in the earlier surveys. Almost the entire 11 percent participation rate can be considered to represent growth since that time. Driving off-road is well distributed across the various categories of respondents. Only Blacks, with 3 percent, are conspicuously under-represented. Only 9 percent of the participants cited the sport as "particularly enjoyed."

Ice Skating

By comparison with the 1960s, ice skating, too, has declined slightly in the percentage of survey respondents participating. Even the 6 percent who did go ice skating tended not to cite the activity as especially enjoyed. This sport is overwhelmingly a pursuit of well-educated, northern, White, young people.

Table 12. Short-Term Activity Trend Indicators

(Percentage who said they started, stopped, or intended to start activity during a 2-year period)

Activity	Annual participation rate ¹	Started in prior 2 years ^{2 3}	Stopped in prior 2 years ^{2 4}	Expected to start in next 2 years ^{2 4}
Bicycling	32	5	5	3
Horseback riding	9	9	7	15
Golfing	13	21	8	15
Tennis outdoors	17	17	7	20
Boating	28	-	4	16
Canoeing or kayaking	8	27	3	16
Sailing	6	29	3	16
Waterskiing	9	-	8	26
Swimming outdoors	53	-	(x)	(x)
Fishing	34	6	5	5
Hunting	12	12	13	7
Camping	24	-	2	5
Backpacking	5	17	5	14
Day hiking	14	10	3	9
Walking for pleasure	53	-	1	1
Running or jogging	26	-	5	6
Birdwatching or other nature study activities	12	13	(x)	2
Picnicking	48	-	1	(x)
Driving for pleasure	48	-	(x)	1
Sightseeing	46	-	1	1
Off-road vehicle driving (includes motorcycles but not snowmobiles)	11	24	3	2
Ice skating	6	-	6	10
Snow skiing	9	-	5	24
Cross-country skiing or ski touring	3	42	3	33
Snowmobiling	3	24	7	19

-Not ascertained for certain activities.
x Less than one half of one percent.

¹Percentage of total sample who said they participated once or more during 12 months prior to interview.

²Expressed as a percentage of current participants (first column).

³Based on the difference between age on starting the activity and current age. Not ascertained for certain activities

⁴Persons who said they stopped during the prior 2 years and expect to start in the next 2 years were not included in these percentages.

Snow Skiing

Snow skiing, by contrast, has enjoyed rapid growth in the interval between 1960 and the current NRS. The 1960 winter participation rate of 2 percent left plenty of room for growth, but a quadrupling of that rate over a 22-year interval is still impressive. Skiing must be regarded as an upscale sport by any available yardstick, and it declines sharply with age. These conclusions can be drawn for snow skiing in general as well as for downhill skiing, which continues to attract the majority of snow skiing participants. Almost half (49 percent) of the self-identified skiers in our sample said they particularly enjoyed the sport.

Cross Country Skiing or Ski Touring

Though cross country was the form of skiing originally brought to North America by immigrants from northern Europe, it had declined to insignificance by the 1960s and was omitted, as a separate category, from the 1960 and 1965 surveys. Its resurgence to a population participation rate of 3 percent in 1982-83 (4 to 5 percent outside the south) has occurred, therefore, from virtually a zero base. The demographic pattern of participation is similar to that for downhill, except that it is markedly less popular with the city people in our sample and holds up somewhat better into middle age.

Snowmobiling

Motorized oversnow vehicles have been used for several decades for transportation in regions with long periods of heavy snow cover. The recreational use of these machines was just getting started in the United States in the 1960s, hence snowmobiling was not included in the 1960 and 1965 surveys. The 3 percent of our respondents who said they went snowmobiling can be regarded as representing growth since 1960. The demographic patterning of our self-identified snowmobilers is similar to that of the cross country skiers—except that snowmobiling is not upscale on the education and income yardsticks.

Sledding

Judged by the winter participation rates of 9 percent, sledding (which includes tobogganing, tubing-on-snow, etc.) has been flat over the past 22 years with respect to the proportion of Americans who engage in it. The participation rate declines sharply with age, and the predominance of young people among sledders would doubtless be even greater if we had data for the under-12 population. Most of the other apparent demographic relationships of sledding participation (predominance of single persons in large households, etc.) are probably age-related.

Visiting Zoos, Fairs, or Amusement Parks

With a population participation rate of 50 percent, this first of our "visiting and attending" activities ranked just below swimming and walking for third place on this breadth yardstick. This kind of visitation appears to be almost universally available to our respondents of all ages and conditions. Some of the 26 percent participation by the age 60 and older group is likely a part of the grandparenting process.

Attending Outdoor Sports Events

Outdoor spectator sports attendance is also widespread among all groupings of the NRS respondents with a population participation rate of 40 percent. A summer comparison reveals an approximate doubling of the seasonal rate since 1960. Women are well represented among sports attendees—a contrast to the traditional male stereotype of the American sports fan.

Attending Outdoor Concerts, Plays, or Other Outdoor Performances

The final "visiting and attending" activity—and the last listed activity in the survey—includes attendance at a wide

variety of performances, historic pageants, and miscellaneous events. The summer participation rate for this activity more than doubled between the 1960 and the 1982-83 surveys. At 25 percent, however, the 12-month rate is still well below that for spectator sports. Attendance at outdoor performances rises markedly with increased educational attainment. Otherwise, this is one of the more widespread, and apparently more accessible, forms of outdoor recreation in our survey.

Other Activities

As noted earlier, respondents were given the opportunity to name as many as four unlisted activities in which they had participated, but few did so. The 12-month participation rates for those activities are

presented in table A-1 in appendix A. The percentages of survey respondents who cited these activities as particularly enjoyed, also listed in the same table, often exceed the participation rates. This is a further indication that the participation rates are much lower than they would have been had those activities been listed on the questionnaire. The rates are useful for comparisons among the unlisted activities but not between the unlisted and listed activities.

No Participation

This is the first nationwide recreation survey which analyzes the segment of the respondent sample who said they did nothing at all for recreation in the outdoors during the prior 12 months (table 4). Of the total sample, 11 percent were in this

category—virtually unchanged from the 1960 figure of 10 percent. The preponderance of these people were in the older age groups, did not finish high school, were low on the income scale, and/or lived in one- or two-person households. Almost twice the proportion of Blacks were nonparticipants as compared to Whites.

SUMMARY

The first two chapters have profiled the 1982-83 NRS respondents on the basis of their participation in outdoor activities and characterized a number of outdoor recreation pursuits on the basis of the numbers and kinds of Americans who engage in them. The next chapter will examine selected aspects of the places where this recreation happens—and of the trips people take to get there.